FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING
Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

Steven C. Horn, Division Director
Kimberly Gaines, Director

HB 674 - Maryland Historic Trust – Historic Preservation Partnership Program and Fund – Established

DATE:	February 28, 2023
COMMITTEE:	House Appropriations Committee
POSITION:	Favorable
FROM:	Kim Gaines, Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office

On behalf of the Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office, I urge the committee to give House 674 a favorable report.

Frederick County contains a wealth of historic resources including pre-historic archeological sites, historic farmsteads, bridges, and rural villages. As a testament to our support for the preservation and enhancement of historic properties, Frederick County annually funds the Rural Historic Preservation Grant program for the rehabilitation, restoration, and preservation of historic properties. With support from this program, the owners of historic churches, barns, and farmsteads have made critical improvements to their properties, so they remain as connections to our shared past.

The Historic Preservation Partnership Fund would likewise provide much-needed financial support to owners of historic properties. While the revolving fund program has existed within the Maryland Historical Trust since the last 1970s, it has been infrequently used in recent years. Frederick County supports the transfer of these funds to a preservation-oriented non-profit organization that can be more responsive and agile in the preservation real estate landscape. The Historic Preservation Partnership Fund would replicate a successful model in the Commonwealth of Virginia, where Preservation Virginia has managed a similar fund for two decades.

Thank you for your consideration HB 674. On behalf of the Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office and the residents of Frederick County, I urge a favorable report.

Kimberly Gaines
Livable Frederick Director
kgaines@frederickcountymd.gov
o: (301) 600-1144